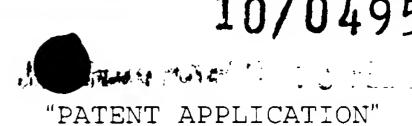
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Didier JOISSON, Christian RICHARD, Gilbert SCHOHN and Cyrille SCHU

U.S. Serial No.

February 13, 2002 Filed:

A METHOD FOR FIXING A MINERAL FILLER ON CELLULOSIC FIBERS AND METHOD FOR MAKING A SHEET OF PAPER

> Alexandria, Virginia February 13, 2002

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-15 without prejudice.

Add new claims 16-30 as follows:

(New) A method for affixing mineral fillers 16. on cellulose fibers in an aqueous suspension comprising providing a reaction medium of an aqueous suspension of cellulose fibers, said suspension being derived from a papermaking procedure and containing hydrogen carbonates, carbonates or silicates of alkali and/or earth alkali metals, and adding a hydroxide of a mineral filler to said